

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3140

ANSWERED ON:19.08.2004

DRINKING WATER FOR VILLAGERS ALONG POLLUTED RIVERS

Gehlot Shri Thaawar Chand

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the Number of the villages located along the polluted rivers where villagers and their cattles are facing the problem of drinking water, river-wise, State wise;
- (b) whether the Government has any scheme to provide drinking water in the villages, which are located along the polluted rivers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA)

(a) Provision of drinking water supply is a state subject. Schemes for providing safe drinking water facilities, including in the villages located along polluted rivers, are planned, executed and implemented by the State Governments. Accordingly, number of villages located along polluted rivers where villagers and cattles are facing problem of drinking water, river wise and State wise, is not maintained. As per the survey conducted by the States at the instance of RGNDWM in 1991 and subsequently updated in 1999, State wise number of rural habitations affected with chemical contamination is annexed. Approximately 85% of rural drinking water sources are ground water based.

(b to d) Government of India, however, supplements the efforts of the states by providing financial and technical assistance under the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). As per the guidelines of the ARWSP, State Governments are required to utilize 15% of funds allocated to them under ARWSP for Sub-Mission projects on quality. With effect from 1.4.1998, powers have been delegated to the states to plan, sanction and implement the Sub-Mission projects on quality. According to the Executive Guidelines for Implementation of Water Quality Testing Laboratories, issued by Government of India, all the public drinking water supply sources in villages are required to be tested for 14 routine parameters at least twice a year, preferably before and after rains. Besides, all the spot sources namely, Handpumps, Tubewells, Sanitary wells are subjected to periodic chlorination. Wherever problem of drinking water quality is detected, remedial measures are taken by State Governments.